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ABSTRACT

The U-SAIL system is a practical approach to individualization of instruction in which a problem-solving process is employed to install a program in logical sequential phases. U-SAIL is a nationally validated, successfully replicated, cost-feasible system for individualization of instruction which can be implemented in a variety of settings with local educator implementors. Cost of implementation is compatible with those regularly required for staff training and curriculum product purchases. Affective data analysis has indicated that in Utah schools, where data were available, there has been a positive relationship between degree and time of implementation of the system and positive student attitudes. (DS)

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A System for Individualizing Instruction

PRACTICAL ANSWERS TO U-SAIL IMPLEMENTATION QUESTIONS

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Schools Working for Improvement in Instruction

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A SYSTEM FOR INDIVIDUALIZING INSTRUCTION

PRACTICAL ANSWERS TO U-SAIL IMPLEMENTATION QUESTIONS

The Utah System Approach to Individualized Learning Project was funded in July of 1970 through a United States Office of Education Title III grant. It has continued through State and local funding.

The project is a multi-district/state consortium effort. Davis, Granite, Iron, Jordan, Murray, Tooele districts, in Utah, have been involved since its inception.

Project policy and management is under the direction of Superintendents John Reed Call, Clarke N. Johnsen, J. Clair Morris, Glen C. Oldroyd, Walter D. Talbot, Bernell Wrigley, Donald J. Parr, Chairman, and Carma M. Hales, Director.

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WHAT IS IT?

What is a system for instruction?

It is a way of bringing the variables involved in teaching and learning into logical productive relationships.

A system does not apply to one aspect alone, but considers the total process of instruction.

What is the purpose of the U-SAIL system?

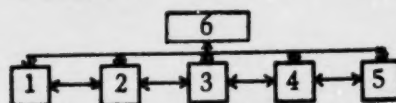
It is a practical approach to individualization of instruction in which a problem-solving process is employed to install program in logical sequential phases.

What is the U-SAIL system?

The system includes strategies and procedures to be followed in the process of implementing program. Each administrator/teacher learner is enabled to work within the framework of his own level of expertise. The model is applicable at each level of management. It includes two components (a) a planning model for decision making and (b) a procedure model which delineates steps to be followed in installing program. The six steps in the planning model in figure A show:

1. Ideal Goals: Establish terminal goals. 2. Reality Base: Determine options and constraints.
3. Reality Goals: Establish performance objectives. 4. Work Base: Complete task analysis.
5. Work Flow: Project time frames. (PERT) 6. Review, Evaluation, Revision: Consider 1-5 above as data base enlarges.

Figure A
Planning Model for decision making



The five steps in the procedure model in figure B show:

1. Use of planning model described. 2. Organization of resources available. 3. Installation of an environment in which individualization is possible. This involves management of resources including: spatial variables, curriculum products, student process and product data, teacher/student interaction, student independent and interpersonal relationships. 4. Installation of diagnostic prescriptive teaching. 5. Installation of learning strategies includes aspects of learner decision making.

Figure B
Procedure Model for implementation



Whom does it affect?

The system includes all variables which are concerned with individualization of instruction. These include how all members of the educational team, teachers/administrators, plan, organize, manage, teach and learn together. It is an open system which encourages the individuality and creativity of each participant within a student-centered structure. Students are accepted and valued and diagnosis and prescription is based on reality goals in terms of each learner's feelings, behavior and knowledge of content.

How much can it help improve instruction?

Instruction will improve in relation to the extent it is installed.

Is it learner-centered?

U-SAIL is a learner-centered system. Central to instruction is the learner. The teacher's goal is to provide the most nearly appropriate task possible, given himself, as a teacher/learner, the time, and the resources he has available.

Does it require special organization?

No -- the system is not designed to dictate a specific kind of building or organizational pattern. It is a system which permits the educator to work effectively within the unique environment of his own instructional setting. Every school setting is unique.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Where does it work?

The system can be installed in any educational setting. Grade, cultural settings and ethnic composition have not been deterrents to program.

Is content important?

Content is an essential part of schooling. Learners go to school to learn about "something." Content is that something. An academic discipline or specific behaviors to be learned can be used as vehicles to individualizing instruction while working within the system.

Are unusual curriculum products needed?

Basic to the system is finding out "what is available in a district" and then working toward maximizing opportunity for learners within that framework. U-SAIL developed curriculum products are utilized to help insure program quality.

Is inservice necessary?

Yes! Administrators and teachers need input and time to work with each component described. How much time is needed depends on the learners and the degree of sophistication desired. Opportunities must be provided for continuous development and for training of local leadership.

Formal training includes massed initial instruction and spaced follow-up instruction. In one school year a school can have the process begun and have stabilized management. A usual pattern followed has been to have several days inservice with periodic onsite assistance. The goal of being responsive to learner needs becomes then a pervasive way of thinking and action rather than merely completion of a pre-determined number of work sessions.

At a district level the U-SAIL expectation is that for program implementation participants make commitments for a two to three year period. Training and U-SAIL certification of local personnel is done at the U-SAIL center and at local sites. All such training is approved and coordinated through the U-SAIL center and is conducted by certified staff. Training seminars are held periodically at the Salt Lake City, Utah center.

WHERE IS IT?

Where is U-SAIL in the United States?

Training and curriculum products are incorporated, to some degree, throughout the state of Utah in public, private and parochial schools. In some local districts all elementary schools are involved. All products submitted have been formally adopted by the state textbook commission.

As a developer/demonstrator program in the national diffusion network, numerous educational agencies outside of the state of Utah have direct affiliation with the program. The complete process for instruction and curriculum materials has been used as the base for several direct replication programs (K-9) in other states.

Where is U-SAIL outside of the United States?

The DODDSEUR schools in Europe, through the United States Department of Defense, have sponsored summer inservice programs since 1974 for elementary and secondary teachers and administrators.

U-SAIL materials have been obtained by educators throughout the world.

WHAT IS ITS VALUE?

How valuable are U-SAIL curriculum materials?

All curriculum products developed are quality screened, learner verified, piloted and validated, in terms of accuracy, appropriateness for students, cost-feasibility (products must be available within district budget constraints), exportability, and practicality.

The curriculum has had national recognition by Capla Associates of New Jersey, Phi Delta Kappa, Regional Laboratories, and the U. S. Office of Education.

How valuable is the U-SAIL program?

- a. An onsite team evaluation in 1973, sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education, validated and certified the project for national dissemination.
- b. The National Advisory Council of Supplementary Centers and Services Presidential Pacesetter Award for project excellence was received in 1973.
- c. The project was named as one of twelve USOE Title III Individualization efforts for national dissemination.
- d. A report from the National Advisory Council on Individualized Instruction projects, contained in the Title III Quarterly, Summer, 1974, stated: "The leader in the survey in the amount of adoption of its program by other schools is U-SAIL."
- e. Recognition of the U-SAIL effort has been documented in various educational publications.
- f. Both the reading and mathematics programs have been recognized by national curriculum studies as outstanding programs.
- g. In October 1976, the project was approved by the Joint Effectiveness Review Panel as a nationally validated project and was included in the national diffusion network.
- h. Statistically, the number of years a school has been associated with the implementing of the U-SAIL process is reflected directly in terms of positive student attitudes toward school, toward learning in specific content areas, and in terms of self-concept. There is also a direct relationship between extent of implementation and academic achievement.

Analysis of evaluation data show, where the U-SAIL system has been installed in pilot settings and at replication sites both in Utah and at other out-of-Utah sites, students have made significantly higher achievement gains in reading and mathematics, as measured by the scores on standardized achievement tests, than students in comparison groups.

The strength of these data lies in the fact that results have been uniformly and significantly in favor of U-SAIL students across independent replication samples. In addition, favorable results have been obtained regardless of teacher experience, test used as outcome measure, year of implementation, grade level, geographic location, socio-economic background of parents, and racial-ethnic factors.

Affective data analysis has indicated that in Utah schools, where data were available, there has been a positive relationship between degree and time of implementation and positive student attitudes.

SUMMARY

The U-SAIL system offers a nationally validated, successfully replicated, effective, cost-feasible system for individualization of instruction which can be implemented in a variety of settings with local educator implementors. Cost of installation are compatible with those regularly required for staff training and curriculum product purchases. The U-SAIL system provides help for the adopter in finding practical solutions to the recognized need of becoming increasingly responsive to individual student needs.

Local or Title moneys such as Title I and Title IV C, can be used to finance district involvements. Costs are negotiable. Contacts may be made with state facilitators or the project directly. For more information write:

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